

# JENNINGS' ACTION IN PULLING CUNNINGHAM FROM MOUND OPENED EYES OF LOCAL FANS

## JENNINGS RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE OF DETROIT STAFF TO SHOW EXPECTED FORM

### Tiger Leader Can Build Wonderful Teams, but Does Not Handle Pitchers Properly, as He Proved in Yesterday's Game

MANAGER JENNINGS, of the Detroit American League pennant favorite, has been complaining for several seasons that he cannot get pitchers. His scouts have scoured the country, bringing in pitchers by the score, but as soon as promising recruits put on a Tiger uniform, they invariably retrograde instead of improve. The fans throughout the country could not understand it, but yesterday Jennings showed Philadelphia fans just why he has no pitchers.

With the Tigers leading by nine runs he pulled Cunningham, a Southern League recruit off the mound in the third inning, because he had passed six men. If the game had been close Jennings would have been justified in pulling Cunningham from the mound, but with such a large lead, he did nothing but shake the youngster's confidence, as there was not one chance in a hundred for the Mackmen to win. It would have been time enough to pull Cunningham after the Mackmen had tallied a few runs, but as they had not scored there apparently was no reason for the switch.

Jennings argued that he wanted to save Cunningham, but immediately sent him down to right field with Coach Bill Sullivan, where he pitched for an hour trying to gain control. He pitched more than a full game in right field warming up with Sullivan, so if Jennings was saving him he took an odd way to do it. There is only one way for a wild pitcher to gain control and that is by working in actual games and getting plenty of it. Jennings shows his pitchers that he has no confidence in them and they are not likely to have any as long as he handles them as has for the last three years.

With the Mack pitchers giving a horrible exhibition, it was an excellent chance for Jennings to allow Cunningham to remain on the mound for some much-needed practice. Boland, who relieved Cunningham, was almost as wild, he also issuing six passes. Each of the Detroit pitchers passed six men, while Nabors, Weaver and Ray passed 18, making a total of 39 free tickets to first, which is believed to be a world's record.

### Nabors' Inexperience Started Trouble

YESTERDAY'S game was one of the many the fans may be forced to put up with every once in a while. While the exhibition of pitching given by Nabors, Weaver and Ray was horrible, the whole trouble was started because the Tigers luckily discovered Nabors' weak point in the first inning. We have often mentioned that Nabors was one of the weakest fielding pitchers in the major leagues when it comes to handling bunts and other balls, which a clever fielding pitcher would convert into outs, and yesterday this defect in the lanky Georgian's work was brought out clearly.

New York, Boston and Washington found Nabors a hard man to punt, as will other teams, when he is right, but yesterday he was off form and went up in the air when the Tigers started this game. A more experienced pitcher would not only have handled the balls Nabors fell down on, but also would have retained his composure after making a few costly slips. Instead Nabors immediately went up in air and all chance for victory was lost because of his inexperience.

In the first inning after he had walked Bush, Nabors made a wild throw trying to catch him napping and the Detroit midget went to second. Witt laid down a bunt to move Bush along. It was at this juncture Nabors tipped off his weakness. He was frightfully slow reaching the ball, and when he did pick it up, made a weird throw to the right field fence. Bush scored and Witt reached third on the misplay.

### Nabors Went Completely to Pieces

NABORS was lucky to get out of this hole with only one run tallied by Detroit, a brilliant and heady play by McInnis picking Witt off third, after he had intercepted a throw from the outfield, pulling the lanky hurler out. Manager Jennings, Cobb and a few other Tigers, who always are on the alert, were quick to discover Nabors' weakness and the following inning was Jack's finish.

Hellman, the first Detroit batter in this inning, tried to bunt the first ball and then Nabors got himself in a hole trying to prevent him from bunting again. Hellman eventually singled. Burns bunted and easily beat it out, Nabors again fielding slowly. By this time Nabors was badly rattled and passed Young trying to induce him to bunt at a bad ball.

This pass filled the bases with none out. Stanage then slapped a wicked drive to deep short, which Witt could not handle and one run scored. The scorers debated as to whether Stanage should be given a hit or Witt an error, and finally, decided on the latter, which was an injustice to the youngster. In the first place Witt was out of position when Nabors pitched, the latter not giving him a chance to get back after he had gone over to the bag waiting for a throw to catch Burns, who was taking a long lead off second. The play also was made doubly hard by Burns, who stopped in the line allowing the ball to pass between his legs to worry Witt.

### Manager Mack Makes a Mistake

IT WAS apparent that Nabors was up in the air by this time and after he had passed Pitcher Cunningham, forcing a run over, Manager Mack decided Jack had enough, so he was pulled from the mound. Cobble then booted one by sending Harry Weaver to the mound.

It is not often that Mack makes serious mistakes and while his reasons for selecting Weaver are plausible, we believe he howed very poor judgment for several reasons. One is that Weaver proved conclusively against Washington and Boston that he is not quite strong enough for major league work. Another is that the team lacks confidence in Weaver and still another is that Detroit had a youngster on the mound who had shown in the first inning that he was wild and had little "stuff."

Detroit had the bases full and not a man had been retired when Nabors was pulled from the mound, but they had tallied only three runs all told and the selection of a reliable relief twirler might have caused the retirement of the side with three or four runs for the inning. Judging by what Cunningham had shown in the first inning, the Mackmen had a fair chance to overcome the lead.

### Four Men Had Two Trips to the Plate in the Second

BEFORE Weaver retired the side the Tigers had batted around once, while Hellman, Burns, Young and Stanage had two trips and eight runs had been scored. These tallies not only clinched the victory, but spoiled an afternoon's pleasure for the fans, who were forced to watch a game which developed into a farce.

Manager Mack says he selected Weaver and then Ray because he did not want to waste one of his regular twirlers, as he does not intend to ruin a promising staff by sending two or three regulars to the mound every time a pitcher has a bad day and is forced to retire. Mack's reason is an excellent one, but with Bush, Crowell and Myers in reserve for the rest of the series, Tom Sheehan, a pitcher who worried the Tigers last season, would have been an ideal relief hurler.

The defeat was particularly discouraging because of the size of the crowd, the fans being very much interested in the Mackmen after the trouncing they handed Walter Johnson on Monday. The fans were very much disappointed, but should not feel discouraged. Games such as the first clash with the Tigers are bound to occur at rare intervals. It is just as well to be beaten 16 to 2 as 1 to 0, and perhaps better, as there is no strain or heart-breaking moments in such a contest. The men are being schooled to forget the past and think of the present and future, and the crushing defeat will not worry them.

In looking back over the old files of Sporting Life, it is impossible to find another game in the history of major league baseball where as many passes were issued as in yesterday's Athletics-Detroit game. The record game, prior to yesterday, was played in Pittsburgh on June 30, 1893, between Pittsburgh and Brooklyn. Terry, Killen and Cumbert, of Pittsburgh, issued 15 passes, while Lovett and Haddock, of Brooklyn, passed nine batters, making a total of 24, which is six behind the record of Nabors, Weaver and Ray, of the Athletics, and Cunningham and Boland, of Detroit.

For the first time in a championship game, Stellbauer, Mack's recruit outfielder from Peoria, showed a flash of the hitting form which featured his work at the training camp. Stellbauer made a triple and double, both being long, clean wallops, while Crawford picked a terrific foul off the right field wall. One of the drives was made off a curve ball, which heretofore has bothered Stellbauer.

Cy Williams, the lanky Chicago outfielder, is now showing Joe Tinker just why every other National League club were anxious to make a trade for him when he placed Williams' name on the famous list of undesirables given out by the Club leader last winter. Williams has won three games within the last week with his terrific drives.

## KELLY—SAVING A JITNEY ON A SCRATCH



## WILMINGTON TAKING LEAD IN TENNIS

### First Exhibition Match Will Be Played on Saturday Afternoon

Wilmington Country Club is off again. By this rash statement it is merely meant that once more this progressive institution is taking the lead in matters of tennis interest, for next Saturday afternoon the first big exhibition match of the season will be staged on its courts.

This time it will be mixed doubles, and will reintroduce to this section Miss Molla Bjurstedt, the national champion, who will be paired with George M. Church, the famous Princeton crack. This pair of stars will be pitted against Miss Marie Wagner, of New York, and William T. Tilden, 2d, of Philadelphia. The match should bring out some excellent tennis, as both Miss Bjurstedt and Miss Wagner have been playing a great deal this year and are at their top game, while the men have also been showing true form.

Wilmington is sufficiently near to Philadelphia to make it easy for Philadelphians to see this match, and a view of Miss Bjurstedt and George Church in action together should well repay any one who journeys down.

Chaplin, Princeton, Operated On  
PRINCETON, N. J., May 10.—Duke Chaplin, Princeton's varsity twirler, was operated upon for appendicitis yesterday and will be out to the team for the remainder of the season. Chaplin and Link have been doing the bulk of the pitching for the "Bear" team this spring, and the absence of Chaplin will weaken the team considerably.

New Strength Record at W. and J.  
WASHINGTON, Pa., May 10.—J. Hodgson Smith, of Tappanstown, Pa., broke the strength test record for Washington and Jefferson College when he registered 327 points. The former record was made 13 years ago by Roy W. Hayes, famous football star, who dealt 317 points. Smith is a tackle on the football team.

## COLUMBIA IS IN SHAPE FOR CHILDS CUP RACE

### Coach Rice Optimistic Over Crew's Chances in Saturday's Schuylkill Regatta

NEW YORK, May 10.—With dashing waves breaking high all around, the Columbia crew yesterday held its last practice on the Hudson before the Childs Cup race at Philadelphia, Saturday. The work-out was a brief one, because of wind and wave. The shell Francis C. Bangs will be shipped to Philadelphia today, with the remote possibility that Coach Rice will send out his men in another shell this afternoon, for another short spin before tomorrow's morning and afternoon practice on the Schuylkill.

Rice was optimistic yesterday, the glow of pride creeping underneath his tan.

Releases in National League  
John K. Tener, of the National League, has announced the approval of the following contracts and releases:  
Contract with Philadelphia—Claude Cooper.  
Releases—By Boston, unconditionally, Joseph A. Shannon, Maurice J. Shanahan, R. J. Leitch, Pitcher; by Boston to Providence, Earl Blackburn; by Cincinnati to Spokane, Kenneth Williams; by Cincinnati to Salt Lake City, Stanley McDougani; by New York to Rochester, Marvin Jacobson, and W. H. Ritter; by Philadelphia, unconditionally, Thomas H. Smith; by Pittsburgh to St. Paul, Vernon C. Johnson; by St. Louis to St. Paul, Vernon C. Johnson; by St. Paul to St. Louis, April 17, 1916.  
Weatherhead is Bowdoin Coach  
BRUNSWICK, Me., May 10.—The Bowdoin College Athletic Council has announced the selection of Albert J. Weatherhead, a Harvard senior, to coach the football team next fall.

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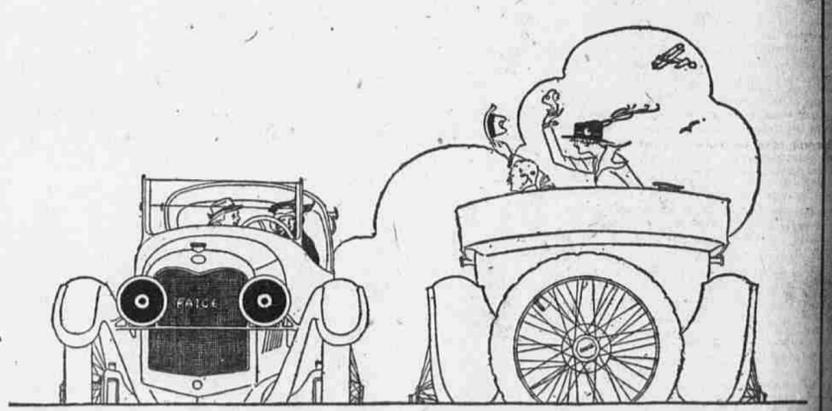
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